

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been examined. Claims 1, 10, 11 and 14 stand rejected, and claims 2-9, 12 and 13 are objected to. By the above amendments, claims 1, 10 and 14 have been amended, claims 15-20 have been canceled, and new claims 21-54 have been added. Support for the amended and new claims can be found throughout the specification. Accordingly, claims 1-14 and 21-54 are pending in the subject application. Favorable reconsideration of the application and allowance of all of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, Applicant notes that claims 15-20 have been withdrawn from consideration as non-elected claims due to a previous restriction requirement made by the Examiner. Applicant affirms that an election was made by telephone to prosecute claims 1-14. These nonelected claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and Applicant reserves the right to pursue continuation and/or divisional applications including the subject matter of these claims.

The specification has been amended to further incorporate by reference U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/787,943. It is submitted that this amendment does not add any new matter to the application, as the referenced U.S. patent application is identical in content with and is the national stage application of International Application No. PCT/AU99/00757 (which was referenced in the originally filed specification).

Claims 1, 10, 11 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 2-9, 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 1-14 are allowable over the prior art.

The Examiner indicates that the recitation of the removal of oxalate ions in claim 1 is indefinite because the preamble does not require oxalate ions. The Examiner also indicates that the limitation "the clarified liquor" in claims 10, 11 and 14 lacks antecedent basis. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "treating the liquor with sufficient lime to remove and causticise any residual carbonate ions and any oxalate ions present". It is respectfully submitted that this limitation is clear and definite in light of the preamble in claim 1. In addition, claims 10 and 14 have been amended to claim priority from claim 3, so that the limitation "the clarified liquor" now has appropriate antecedent basis in these claims. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully

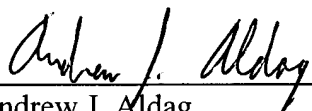
requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 10, 11 and 14 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and to allow claims 1-14.

It is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-54 are also clear and definite and should be allowed over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to find the application to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-14 and 21-54. However, if for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss any unresolved issues and to expedite the disposition of the application.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-0460.

Respectfully submitted,



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